

MAY 1996

OPEN ARMS

VOL.8 NUMBER 5

..... MICHIANA'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER

LAVENDER RHYTHM is still seeking information about the missing smoking stand that was taken from the Pickwick Place on March 9, after the dance had ended. A womyn was seen carrying the stand out of the hall and down the street, at approximately 1:30 a.m. She has been described as a white womyn, about 5'8" with short dark hair. She was wearing a blue jacket and nice dress slacks. We will have to pay for this stand and we may also lose this location for any future dances if it is not returned. Please help us in locating this smoking stand, and getting it returned to the Pickwick Place. **No questions asked!!** It can be brought to the next dance on May 18, or other arrangements can be made by calling 616-684-7362

Thank You,

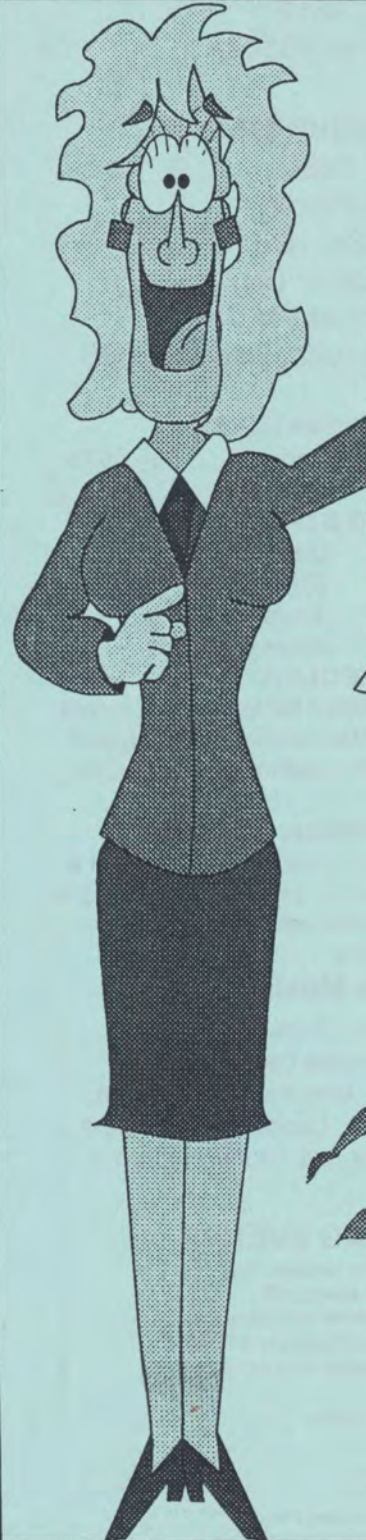
Lavender Rhythm



**Watch for:
Advice Column
by Egeria**

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HELP WANTED!

Open Arms is looking for new staff members. If you can donate a few hours a month to help with the publishing of the newsletter, please call a staff member for more information.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday

7-9 p.m.

For info, write:

LSG

P.O. Box 1612

Mishawaka, IN 46544

3RD THURSDAY OUT

Loco's Mexican Restaurant

3801 Western Ave., South Bend

Thursday, May 16th, 6:30 p.m.

Call Sherrill and/or Lori by Monday, Apr. 13th for reservations at 684-6913.

All suggestions of future places would be appreciated.

Lavender Rhythm Dance

May 18, 1996

Pickwick Place

219 N. 4th St., Niles

8:00 p.m. to 1:00a.m. (IN time)

\$7.00 admission at the door

Womyn only, smoking room inside, BYOB

EVENTS COORDINATORS

Third Friday Out: Sherrill and Lori 684-6913

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Suze (219)-272-3477

Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338

Advertising: Kaye & Marcia

Subscriptions: Kaye & Marcia

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier.

Thanks.

National Women's Music Festival Bloomington, Jun. 6-9

Thursday night: Margarette Cammermeyer

Fri-Sun: Melanie DeMore, Mrs. Fun, Lea Delaria,

Ronnie Gilbert, Swagi Taiko, Linda Tillery, Dianne

Davidson, Kathryn Warner and Azucar Y Crema

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Jun. 22 Michigan March for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Rights, Lansing, MI

May 17-19 2nd Annual Gathering of Priestesses: a Conference on Leadership and Service in the Goddesswoman Community, (608)-244-0072

Olivia Cruises

Jun. 25-Jul. 3, 1996 Alaska

July, 1996 The Mediterranean:
France/Spain/Italy

October, 1996 Sonora Bay: Club Med Resort
call 1-800-631-6277 for information



1996 Whistle Stop Cafe Schedule

May 3	Superior Business	6:30	Boland
May 10	Crop Fire Protection	7:15	Boland
May 17	IUSB	6:30	
May 31	Rose	7:15	
Jun. 7	Simeri's	7:15	
Jun. 14	Martins	7:15	
Jun. 21	Peddler's Pub	7:15	
Jun. 28	Superior Business	6:30	
Jul. 5	Crop Fire Protection	7:15	
Jul. 12	IUSB	6:30	
Jul. 19	Rose	6:30	
Jul. 26	Simeri's	6:30	
Aug. 2	Martins	6:30	

Call Cityline each week for location of that week's game
674-0900 ext. 2233 or 1-800-830-2489 ext 2233.

MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL August 13-18

Last Name

First Name

Address

City/State/Province

Zip

Country

Telephone Number

day

night

_____ 6 Day Tix at \$_____ each, total of \$_____

_____ 5 Day Tix at \$_____ each, total of \$_____

_____ 4 Day Tix at \$_____ each, total of \$_____

_____ 3 Day Tix at \$_____ each, total of \$_____

_____ 2 Day Tix at \$_____ each, total of \$_____

_____ 1 Day Tix at \$_____ each, total of \$_____

Please charge my tickets to:

☐ MC ☐ Visa Exp. Date _____/_____/19____

Acct# _____ \ _____ \ _____

Print name as it appears on card

Total Amount of Ticket Purchase

\$_____

Cardholder's Signature

Send self-addressed stamped envelope and cashier's check, money order or credit card info to WWTMC, Box 22, W alhalla MI 49458. Ticket purchases received after July 29th will be held at the Box Office. **No personal checks. NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 11.**

THE HOUSESITTER BLUES



When I was a kid living in New York, hiring someone to take care of our apartment was never an issue. Every summer my parents packed the cat into a carrier and off we went to Grand Central Station, to catch a train, for the annual two week visit to all the relatives. Even in the biggest, baddest city in the world, a locked door was protection enough.

Decades later, owning a home is one of the few ways a queer family has to set down roots. With this privilege, though, comes responsibility. The one I hate most is hiring housesitters.

My first housesitter spoiled me. She was the most reliable person in the universe. A secretary who lived with her parents, Joyce would arrive in her classic black Vette with her case of Gatorade, pound of bologna and loaf of Wonderbread. All she seemed to want was a place to be a couch potato in peace.

Fifteen years and a few moves later, finding a housesitter has become an agonizing ordeal. What can we do? Here in rural Oregon, a month doesn't go by without a hate crime. As I write, a local non-gay Jewish family is enduring daily vandalism to their home. Housesitter, nothing, we need to invite the local SWAT team to use our place as a dormitory, if we have to be away overnight.

I miss Gatorade Joyce a lot. Ethel looked good. She lived with her gay daughter and talked a lot about her HIV positive grandson. She seemed pretty perfect for us: tolerant, experienced, mature.

by Lee Lynch

We went off to Seattle with confidence. We arrived at our friend's home to a hysterical message from Ethel that she had immediately lost the dog. Ethel was full of scratches and burrs from beating the bushes for her. The dog did come home when she was ready, no worse for the wear. But Ethel was a wreck, and by that time, so were we.

After Ethel, we found Darlene, listed in the paper. She'd developed a housesitting business to supplement her income, but also to get away from her husband and sons. She was insured and bonded, had a manner that inspired confidence and never lost the dog. But we lost Darlene when her husband took a job far away and she chose him over us. Damn.

Darlene was so good that she didn't leave us in the lurch. She referred us to Helena Housesitter. If Darlene was a professional, Helena was an executive. She was so devoted, she brought all her furry customers annual holiday treats. But Helena had twenty-two dogs of her own and started a kennel business. Double damn.

Then came the woman who was so lonely it was hard to get her to leave. And another woman who, when I called the first night we were away to see if she had any questions, told us there'd been an unexpected problem and she had her infant and toddler grandchildren staying at our home. And a friend who was great - - until she fell in love and set up a household of her own. And the highly recommended young woman who committed herself months ahead, then *never* called to cancel. And the lesbian who volunteered, then couldn't bear to be parted from her lover.

Not that I blame her. That's the same thing we wanted. To go off on our own and pay someone to be a responsible homeowner for ten days while we played. Sometimes I wonder if I destroyed my housesitter karma by moving across the country, abandoning Joyce to her parents' house. Eventually, though, she married and moved away too, with her Vette and her Gatorade and Wonderbread. But we still keep in touch. And if she ever divorces. . .

Copyright Lee Lynch 1996





COURT OF FRIENDS

SINGLES

O.K. all you singles! Here's your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you, what you are looking for in another (be brief), and send to:

The Court of Friends

P.O.Box 1281

Niles, MI 49120

(Be sure to include your address.)

Your identity will be assigned an ID number. Your info and ID number will be published in OPEN ARMS. (It would be helpful if you would send your info early in the month so that it can be published in the next month's issue.) Also, O.A. reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for publication.

Those wishing to respond to an ID Single may do so by writing whatever you wish, putting it in a stamped, sealed envelope with the intended ID number on the front (in pencil). Place your message in another stamped envelope and mail to the above P.O.Box.

Upon receiving your message, the ID number will be replaced with the corresponding name and address and mailed. Then you're on your own. **COME ON SINGLES!** *Someone special wants to know you're out there!*

50 White, country-raised female, mid 40's, tired of spending weekends alone. In search of mature female around my age to possibly date on regular basis. Possible lasting relationship down road.

Interests include, but not limited to, nature photograph, fishing, hiking, quiet nites at home.

Please, no one niters, head-games, bi's or druggies. Prefer no little kids.

51 I'm 27 yr. old SWF who is employed, educated, faithful, sincere and interested in developing a true friendship/relationship. I'm looking for a woman 21 to 40, who enjoys dancing, movies, swimming, camping, social drinking and much more.

Please write, I would be very glad to hear from you.

52 I am a 51 year old GWF who is fairly new to area. Attracted to somewhat feminine women. I am a sensitive, honest, compassionate person with a great sense of humor. Am interested in meeting new friends and possibly that "special someone".

If you have any constructive ideas concerning ways to make this section better serve your needs, please write and share your ideas. Also, if you have something that you would like to say to our wimin, even though it is not an ad, please feel free to submit it.



This Spring

Why is this Spring unlike the rest?
It is the one today.

I stand before an awakening world
Fresh starts, new chances to play.

Why is this Spring unlike the rest?
Because of what I make of me.
It's how I view tomorrow,
And what I'm able to see.

- anonymous

For more information on a lesbian chat line
contact: OhMeeoow@aol.com



Whistle Stop Cafe

"I smell trophy!" That was the call on our team's first practice. Whistle Stop looks better than ever. Lots of talent. We have about 50% of last years players returning, so about 50 % are new. They look good, really good, and they play well, too. We have a new pitcher that will be sharing pitching time with Woody. Out fielders look strong, and infield is quick and powerful.

Whistle Stop was scheduled to play in the B League. This was a shocker. We were only 6 and 8 last year but there were so many new teams signed up that some how we were pushed to B League. This is not a good thing, because of our philosophy of playing for fun and all players getting fair playing time. Thanks to our new Coach Helper, Sherrill, we were saved from this dreadful fate and were moved back to C League, where we belong. The pressure is lowered and we have a great chance for a winning season.

So, all you Whistle Stoppers, ...yes, I'm talking to you fans....come out to our games as much as you can. Show the team you care and join us in celebrating after the games. We celebrate if we win or loose, so be prepared to step out.

Fans are a real important part of this team. You've made every season a winning season where fans are concerned. We have always enjoyed the best in fans....in quantity and quality. Thank you for past support and please, let's keep the tradition going.

Keep frying those green tomatoes
- staff

NIGHT SONGS a Gianna Maglione mystery

ANGRY , INTENSE, UTTERLY SPELLBINDING

The powerful follow-up to *Keeping Secrets*, the former TV reporter Penny Mickelbury's sensational insider look at Washington, D.C.

No one knows better than Police Lieutenant Gianna Maglione, head of the Hate Crimes Unit, that America's majestic city is a city divided- -by race, and by class.

No one has seen these divisions more clearly than Afro-American Mimi Patterson in her work as an investigative newspaper reporter, work that puts her in constant professional jeopardy with her lover Gianna.

Beyond the marble facades of the city, on the sidestreets off the wide boulevards, amid the disenfranchised, Mimi investigates fragmentary reports of hate crimes against certain kinds of women. Gianna already knows about three murders, and in high-crime, high violence Washington, these killings are low police priority. After all, street prostitutes are worthless throw-away women, who cares how many are dead, or why?

Gianna and Mimi care passionately- -and when their investigations unexpectedly reach into a high echelon of government, they uncover a lethal adversary-and face each in the kind of uncompromising professional collision each of them dreads.

The Author, Penny Mickelbury, is currently at work on a novel of historical fiction and a collection of short stories.

Book Review by Jean

Published by the Naiad Press \$10.95

SURVEY INFORMATION from TLC

"Is there a ...therapist in the house?" This month and next month the Lesbian Committee of NOW polled therapists and psychologists, asking the usual questions.

1. Do you welcome lesbians and gays at your business?
2. Would you hire a person who was qualified for an open position if you knew they were lesbian or gay?
3. If it came to your attention that one of your employees was a lesbian or gay, would you retain them in the same position?

The results of the poll are listed below:

Yes to all three:

Dr. Joyce Block, S. Bend, private practice
Dr. Nancy Gulanick, PhD., S. Bend, private practice
Kathleen Ponko, ACSW, Psychology Associates
Dr. Sue Ellen Peters, PhD., S. Bend, Stress Recovery
Nancy Taylor, S. Bend, Nowak & Associates

No Reply:

Marcia Coulter
Dr. Aura DeSchamps
Betty Laird
M.J. Murry-Vachon
Peggy Rose

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ANNE V. WHITCOMB MA, CSW
Counseling for Growth & Health
(219) 674-0168

Cathy Lambert, ACSW, CCSW
Director



125 South Hill Street
South Bend, IN 46617
(219) 232-4191
1-800-92-KOALA
FAX (219) 232-4561

"LOOKIN' OUT MY BACK DOOR"

by Linda Shoemaker

Top 10 Reasons to Buy a Home

10. To be able to invite friends over for volleyball and a cook-out.
9. No need to register over-night guests at the office.
8. You can paint the walls and ceilings any color, including white.
7. Become an ecologist: plant a lot of flowers and trees.
6. You can have pets and not pay an extra monthly fee or deposit.
5. Privacy, Privacy, and more Privacy!
4. Mortgage interest rates are presently low.
3. Uncle Sam will let you deduct the mortgage interest on your taxes.
2. It's a great investment.
1. I need the business!!



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IN THE NEWS

Reply letters to the USA Today about Tony Snow's (the Bird-cage) comment that permitting gay marriage would lead to legalized polygamy and incest:

"love and commitment is special - it knows no gender boundaries. It is not about "political correctness" but rather a matter of gender equity. He can marry the woman of his choice: I cannot." Gail Halvana, Daytona Beach, Florida

"However enlightened and open-minded Snow may be, or believes himself to be, he fails to add any substance to the argument about gay marriage. Marriage is first and foremost a public celebration and affirmation of the love between two people. The institution itself will only become stronger when it is available to everyone." Michael Hazlett, Montague, Mass.

"The Christian Coalition expounds daily on its narrow-minded dogma that will cure all the world's ills -- though it sounds faintly akin to the Spanish Inquisition. In whatever form God is, should our efforts be directed toward hallow doctrinal ceremonies, perceptions, and prejudices, or more toward the day-to-day practice of what is humanely and spiritually right?" John Campbell, Findley, Ohio

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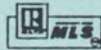
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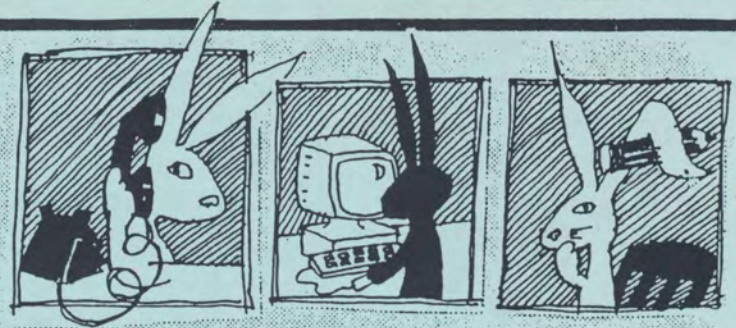
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Sandy Berta - Owner



May

1996

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 NOW meeting 7-9 p.m. St. Joe County Public Library	2	3	4 Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, Chicago 312-477-8362 JAMIE ANDERSON
5	6	7  Happy Birthday Loretta H. Support group 7pm	8	9	10	11 Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, Chicago 312-477-8362 Lucy Blue Tremblay
12  M O T H E R S D A Y	13 Reservations Due for 3rd Thursday Out	14 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	15	16 Third Thursday Out 6:30 p.m.	17	18 Dance at the Pickwick Place Niles, 8PM- 1AM (In. time)
19 Open Arms Meeting 6:30 p.m.	20	21 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	22	23	24	25
26 PFLAG Meeting 2-4 p.m.	27  Birthday Wishes to Lynn B. Memorial Day	28 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	29	30	31 Happy Birthday Barb W. 	

Subscription to Open Arms - \$10.00/year

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone Number _____

Make checks payable to Open Arms and mail to:
P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, Ind. 46546

*Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to
the Michiana lesbian community.*

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the June newsletter is May 15th. Submissions received after May 15th may not be published in the June newsletter. Mail submissions to *Open Arms*, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or give to any staff member.

**Newsletter Meeting May 19, 6:30 p.m. For information
271-0338**